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From: Jeff Tobias [jeff@windwardwatersports.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2012 9:29 PM

Subject: Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee Testimony

Kiteboarding was born and raised in Kailua. Robby Naish and Pete Cabrinha are both from Kailua and now have two of the biggest kiteboarding equipment companies in the world. These brands, from Kailua, are now distributed worldwide. Kailua is a mecca for kiteboarding and kitboarding instruction. My school and the certified instructors that work here get locals and tourist safely into the sport. You cannot begin kiteboarding without proper instruction. This Bill will take away peoples access to kiteboarding. What will follow will be friends teaching friends and non-qualified renegade instructors taking cash on the beach for a quick lesson. This will be the end of kiteboarding at Kailua Beach for everyone. It would be a shame to kill kiteboarding at the very beach it was born.

Hawaii's economy and image is driven in a large part by surf related sports and all of the associated businesses and service industries that they depend on.

The participants of these sports, both locals and visitors need access to the water in important places like Kailua beach. Kailua is the best and safest place to learn how to kiteboard and windsurf on Oahu. There is no other beach. Bill 11 would take away the permits that we have to teach "wind sports" at Kailua Beach.

Kailua has long been a place of watersports instruction. Instruction accompanies these sports and is absolutely essential for kiteboarding. Many champions and sports icons got their start in schools based at Kailua Beach. Banning kiteboarding in Kailua would be like banning surfing on the North Shore.

Bill 11 throws a massive blanket over the problem of over commercialization in Kailua. We all agree that something needs to be done but don't let your anger get the best of you. It's a slippery slope when you start taking away peoples freedoms. There is a solution to this problem but its not Bill 11. A simple permit system to regulate the number of kayaks in the water, the number of lessons on the beach and the way these sports are done on a commercial level would work best. It has o be done with the Dept of Parks and the DLNR together. Bill 11 does not address the issue of kayaks in Kailua, on the Mokuluas or Lanikai beach. The same amount of tourists and kayaks will be in the water. Instead of being from 4 different companies they will all be from 1 company. This Bill does not affect Kailua Sailboards at all. They put more kayaks in the water than all 3 other companies combined. Tour busses will park in their parking lot and droves of kayakers will drag their kayaks across Kailua rd. to the canal, out into the ocean and to our offshore islands without ever touching the beach park and avoiding Bill 11's rule. Despite efforts by the other kayak companies in Kailua urging everyone to limit the amount of kayaks sent out daily, Kailua Sailboard and Kayaks has refused to reduce their numbers time and time again. Bill 11 hands them a monopoly by eliminating all of their competition. Its pretty clear how they will handle that.

Jeff Tobias

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